



State of South Carolina

Office of the Governor

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR

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June 7, 2005

The Honorable David Wilkins
Speaker of the House of Representatives
State House
Post Office Box 11867
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Dear Mr. Speaker and Members of the House:

I am hereby vetoing and returning without my approval H. 3383, R. 183, the Fire Protection Sprinkler Systems Act.

My veto is based on one significant objection. This bill takes the current regulations at the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation governing sprinkler system installations and converts those regulations into statute.

This sets an undesirable precedent. The process for promulgating and amending regulations in South Carolina is well established, and is distinct from the process of writing laws. By transforming these regulations into statute, this bill potentially makes the future process of modifying those regulations more difficult. Allowing this bill to become law in its current form could encourage other groups to make the same transformation from regulation to statute in future bills, whether for the sake of convenience or for some other purpose. The eventual result would be overly rigid regulations and statutes that are unmanageably detailed.

The General Assembly usually establishes broad policy direction via statute, and regulatory detail is added through a separate process that involves legislative oversight, as well. It is important not to set a precedent in the opposite direction.

For that reason, I am vetoing this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "MS", written over a horizontal line.

Mark Sanford